

two years ago. The model establishment in Goulston-square has progressed but slowly, and till it be completed, many will hesitate to follow its plans; but as "Rome was not built in a day," so we may say that the Roman institution of public baths will not be established in this country with great rapidity. Country towns will not be the least willing to follow the metropolitan example when they find, that there has not been "more haste than good speed" in London. "A compulsory provision" for the establishment of public baths and wash-houses is a very pretty theoretical speculation; but there could not be a surer way (for the next ten years, at least) of ruining the cause, than attempting to pass an Act to make such a provision.

I am quite as earnest as any Londoner in desiring the general establishment of public baths and wash-houses; but I know too much about the matter to agree with your correspondent.

N. R.

NOTTINGHAM AND NORWICH SCHOOLS OF DESIGN.

At a *conversazione* in connection with the Nottingham School of Design, held on the 21st ult., Lord Lincoln took the chair. In the course of an address his Lordship justly remarked—Whether viewed as a means of cultivating a sense of beauty in nature and in art,—a means of cultivating that sense of beauty which I am sure, more than any other, tends to elevate the mind, and to instil the purest and most elevating thoughts into the hearts of those who, after days of toil, frequent institutions such as this, instead of giving themselves up to coarser and more sensual pursuits,—I say, whether viewed in this light, or as bearing more immediately upon the pecuniary interests both of those who are endeavouring to obtain excellence, and upon those in whose service they are employed; in whatever light we view them, I think we shall feel institutions such as the School of Design can hardly be overrated in their ultimate importance. When we look at the sudden variations of fashion with regard to the materials, more especially those which are the staple commodities of this town; when we consider the improved taste which I do believe prevails both in this and other matters with regard to the existence of design; still more, when you look to that intense competition which now prevails with regard to manufactures in all parts of the world; when we look at all these things, it does behove us, if we value our manufacturing interests and the possession of that market which we have hitherto enjoyed, not to slumber or sleep upon our post, but to exert ourselves to the utmost. I believe it is thought these schools are good for those whose business may be to invent designs, but useless to the artisan. Now, I believe a greater fallacy than this cannot exist. There are practical men in this room; and I am sure, if appealed to, they will say that even those whose occupations may be merely that of the artisan will yet find the greatest advantages in those studies; that they will become important workmen; and, I believe, that this is an undeniable fact, that an immense amount of work is constantly spoiled by those who have not the taste to appreciate the designs they are called upon to execute.

Mr. John Walter, M.P., also addressed the meeting.

From the report read by Mr. Hammersley it appears that the school at this moment averages 152 students, and the daily attendance averages 96.

In the same week the annual meeting of the Norwich School of Design took place, for the distribution of premiums given by Sir John Boileau.

The Bishop of the diocese, who took the chair, said, speaking of the arts,—Painting had a power more strongly engrained upon us than any other art. He would say, in regard to himself, that the happiest hours of his life had been dedicated to the study of what he saw in the varied departments of creation. He considered every new taste and every art as equivalent to another sense. A person might travel through the most beautiful scenery, and be unimpressed with what he saw, if his mind was not filled with knowledge and taste for the works of God. He, on the other hand, could not walk, over a heath with-

out seeing the beauties which others might not perceive if they were without a knowledge of painting. He would say, that every thing which improved their talent added to their happiness: it added to their happiness in a temporal point of view, as it might be the means of advancing them in society, and of making them more respected. He believed there was no mind, however insignificant in the eyes of men, into which, if the right chords were touched, they might not infuse a spirit to raise it in every point of view. From the humblest classes the brightest ornaments had been produced. He hoped that those who had the means and the power would assist in carrying out the great objects they had in view, in infusing a taste for science and art in every possible branch, in every possible way, for the benefit of the humbler classes.

There is no decrease, we are informed, in the number of subscribers or students at Norwich; but the manufacturers are complained of, as well as the citizens at large, for taking little interest in the school.

"HEALTHY LODGINGS, WITH THE ADVANTAGE OF A GULLY-HOLE OPPOSITE."

CERTAIN facts and opinions recorded in our report of a paper read at the ordinary meeting of the Institute of Architects on the 13th ult., as to sewers, may lead to such an advertisement as that with which we have headed this article, and require, in passing, some little comment; more especially as there is, probably, even still more risk of a fatal check to the sanitary agitation,—sanitary fever, as such an effort of human nature to throw impurities out of the corporate system may, indeed, be called,—by any thing like a *damper* rising from the sewers, than of any "dangerous frenzy" being excited by too many precautionary exhortations.

It appears to be "a fact, that when London was ravaged by the cholera, no case occurred amongst the workmen employed in the sewers." Now, a fact is a fact, and ought to be received with all due reverence and respect, but it is often a two-edged weapon, and ought to be cautiously handled. We are indebted to Mr. T'Anson, however, for bringing such a fact under notice, even although he himself makes no comment upon it, whether cautious or otherwise; but mistaken inferences are exceedingly apt to be deduced from such a fact, and the sooner the possibility of that be obviated the better; especially when reinforced by such another fact, as that a female declared she had never been well till she came to live "near one of the open street-gratings so much complained of," and to enjoy the sanitary benefit of the emanations from the sewers. Lest, therefore, there should be any thing like a general and undue anxiety, in consequence, to escape the ravages of cholera by fostering the contents of sewers as a sanitary agency, or even by running into sewers themselves for respite and for refuge, or to sewer-valves or gratings for the wholesome breath of life and health, we wish just to bring a parallel couple of facts under notice.

It is a fact, for instance, that while thousands may be slain by an undue dose of opium, no confirmed opium-eater will be slain by a similar dose. It is likewise a fact that many a one has never been relieved from pain until he came to experience the benefits of opium. But is not opium a deadly poison? Does not opium, habitually used, abbreviate the life? And will not opium in very small proportion rapidly slay its thousands and its tens of thousands, who are not habitually within its noxious influence, while it is slowly, but most surely, eating into the vitals even of these? The corollary is too obvious for formal exposition, and affords the most friendly excuse for the "facts" that we can find.

As to the additional fact that an experimenter has found it difficult to obtain a cubic foot of noxious gas from the sewers, the intimation is rather inexplicit. We are not informed whether it be meant, that in the usual state of the atmosphere of sewers such is the case; but, at all events, it did not require such knowledge to assure us that the experimenter must have pitched upon a very different state of matters from that in which the unfortunate victim, Grosse, drew his last breath. We believe there is truth in the

remark of another speaker, that "although the gases from sewers are, doubtless, bad, more evil results from the badness of our house-drains than from the sewers." But the Dean of Westminster's fact is also, at least, as good as any of those adduced, 'on the other side' of the question.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE entire village of Thornton, in Lincolnshire, consisting of cottage and farm buildings, with 2,500 acres of well-cultivated land, says the *Lincolnshire Times*, was last week offered for sale by Alderman Farebrother in eight lots, five of which found purchasers at prices varying from 45l. to 65l. per acre, buildings all inclusive.—Another of the Norfolk churches, says the local *Chronicle*—namely, that of Methwold—has been rendered fit for the due and decent celebration of its sacred offices by the removal of unsightly and dilapidated pews, with which it was disfigured, and "an ugly screen" and gallery with which the west window and tower were blocked up. The interior has accordingly been rebenched with open seats and the centre of the nave given to the poor, while the side aisles are appropriated to the rich. Mr. Thomas Farrow, of Diss, builder, designed and carried out the repairs: an organ has also been added.—Extensive alterations in the parish church at Danbury, says the *Chelmsford Chronicle*, are to be commenced early in the spring, when a considerable portion of the body of the church will be rebuilt.—A small theatre, according to the same paper, has been built at Warley harracks.—A decorated octagonal font has been added to Dunmow Church, from a design by Mr. Smart, master of Dunmow Diocesan Schools, traced partly from the ancient fonts of the church, and executed by Mr. Wm. Ollett, jun., sculptor.—The new Graving Dock at Southampton is nearly completed by the contractor, Mr. Cubitt, of Gray's-Inn-road. The *Hampshire Independent* speaks highly of its workmanship—brickwork with granite copings—as already mentioned in *THE BUILDER*, and of the rapidity as well as apparent solidity with which it has been constructed.—The waterworks at Newport, Isle of Wight, are so far completed as to allow the supply-pipes, which are of galvanized iron from dipped in a bath of zinc, is it not? to be laid on to several establishments.—The Birmingham Council Committee for building the jail appear to be receiving no countenance from those very rate-payers whose interests in "the bond" of the late contractor and his sureties they were so officially anxious to uphold. The rate-payers themselves are about to memorialize the council to release the sureties "on payment of the sum of 2,000l., which, with 1,500l., the value of the work already done and unpaid for, makes the amount of the bond given by them for 3,500l.," but with which amount, our readers may remember, the committee and council were not content, and accordingly demanded the full amount of the bond, even over and above the value of the work already done! Considering that the sureties, hopeless of anything like generosity, or even justice, without an equally expensive lawsuit, had at last consented, and had even offered to pay the full amount of the bond, it must be a strong moral impulse which is actuating the rate-payers thus virtually to reprove their own ultra-zealous representatives. The memorialists deem their intervention a matter of mere right and justice to the sureties in "so extraordinary a bargain," and do not hold the council justified by any mere saving to the rate-payers, the whole amount being only about one halfpenny in the pound on a single rate! They also submit, that had the contractor lived, the rise in the price of materials and labour, which has so much enhanced the second contract, was the result of a cause—the enormous extension of the railway system—which the contractor could neither foresee nor provide against, and would of itself have entitled him to proportionate relief on every principle of even-handed justice; and if this be true in reference to the contractor, much more does the rule apply to the contractor's sureties.—Extensive alteration and improvements have been made in Kidderminster Church. A new